



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

PRIME MINISTERS AND PRESIDENTS. By Charles Hitchcock Sherrill. New York: George H. Doran Company.

The main point of emphasis regarding Mr. Sherrill's well-informed and highly readable book should be, it appears, the fact that with adequate analysis of political conditions and problems, the treatise gives a very human and hence sanely favorable and reassuring view of the men in power in foreign countries and thus indirectly of the peoples whom these leaders more or less exactly typify. Although the political comment is not very systematic, and though some of the portrayals are brief and not very memorable, the book has exceptional value as employing intimate knowledge in the service of good sense. On the whole, it is extremely persuasive.

The best portraits are those of Lloyd George and of Briand, who are painted full length; but there are other sketches that seem to bring one face to face with real human beings. Particularly notable is the author's study of the German leaders, Wirth, Rathenau, Stinnes, and others, whom we seldom see represented or even alluded to except as figures representative of a recalcitrant Germany. "These men," writes the author, "personify Germany's new position since the war, and perhaps if we sit down with them for a while, we shall rise with the conclusion that this group incarnates a spirit of better national promise than could ever have been expected of the men around and influencing the Kaiser." It is even so. Possibly sufficient circulation has not been given to Walter Rathenau's remarkable statement that "we have no right to decide the destinies of the world, for we have not learned to guide our own destinies. We have no right to force our modes of thought and feeling upon other civilized nations."

Similarly in his chapters upon Holland, Scandinavia, the countries of the Little Entente, Austria and Hungary, Greece, and Japan, the author by introducing us to real men, by initiating us in some degree into their problems and points of view, gives us impressions that seem, as far as they go, unusually sound and wholesome.

It is notoriously difficult to convey to the people of one country a true conception of the inhabitants of another; formal and diplomatic history are hardly more effective than are controversial or propagandist literature. In this delicate business Mr. Sherrill, through his method of putting us in touch with representative men, seems much more successful than most writers on European topics. Real knowledge, a gift for pointed characterization, a sane judgment that balances a capacity for enthusiastic appreciation, all help him to produce an impression which, though not optimistic on principle, is as acceptable as it seems genuine.